

years. It is time. And it is time to bring our troops home, not conducting any wars for oil on any continent.

#### HONORING NEW CONSTRUCTION OF JOHN H. STROGER, JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Cook County Board of Commissioners opened a brand new public hospital in Chicago, the John H. Stroger Cook County Hospital. I rise to congratulate and commend President Stroger, the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Ms. Ruth Rothstein, director of the Bureau of Health Services for the county, Mr. Lacy Clay, director of the hospital, and all of the staff for making this milestone possible.

Mr. Speaker, Cook County Hospital is one of the finest hospitals in the Seventh Congressional District and in the nation. Since the 1800s, Cook County Hospital has delivered comprehensive primary, specialty and tertiary health care services to all residents of Cook County, despite socioeconomic status, being uninsured, or their ability to pay. With the astonishing fact that 98 percent of patients who arrive alive at the trauma center survive, this public hospitals is well known nationwide.

Cook County Hospital excels in services and expertise for its level I trauma center, burn unit, the largest neonatal intensive care unit in the Midwest and its women's cancer center, which treats 30 percent of the women with breast cancer in the county. Yet Cook County Hospital could not be the model for public hospitals in our Nation if it were not for the hospital's extraordinary staff. The staff is commended for their consistent dedication and enthusiasm for giving the highest quality of care, even when they worked in a hospital constructed over 100 years ago, which made the task of serving the needs of patients much more complicated.

However, the staff has extended their participation of saving lives in the hospital to help save lives in the communities surrounding the hospital. Though half of the admissions in the trauma unit are a result of assaults, and the majority of those from gun violence, the hospital staff decided to pursue efforts to reduce violence by creating a violence prevention task force, which helped spawn the Chicago Violence Prevention Strategic Plan.

However, on Thursday, December 12, 2002, the historic beauty on West Harrison Street that inspired the hit television show "ER" stopped accepting patients. The remarkable medical staff and their patients were moved to the new modern facility, the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. The patients and staff will now be air

conditioned in the summer, have access to oxygen hookups in each room, and have a hospital-wide paging system.

And although the staff expects quality of care to improve along with efficiency, they are certain that the largest impact will be on patients, who gained private bathrooms for the first time, televisions and telephones in their rooms, and nurses stations that are in close proximity in the new hospital. This new hospital will have fewer beds and is smaller than the old, but it is a reflection of the changing times, with fewer inpatient and a growing number of outpatient procedures.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this new development is a testament to Cook County's sensitivity and farsightedness by investing in public health care at a time when cities and counties around the country are closing public hospitals or cutting back services. I commend the Cook County Board in its efforts to make real their mission statement: to provide a comprehensive program of quality care with respect and dignity to the residents of Cook County regardless of their ability to pay.

This new hospital positions the county to do just that, and I again commend them for their farsightedness and their sensitivity in providing high-quality health care to even those with the least ability to pay.

#### AMERICAN DREAM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, from the time I arrived in Washington, D.C., now fully more than 2 years ago, I pledged myself to my constituents in eastern Indiana to fight to renew the American Dream; that is that dream of every American, whatever their race, whatever their creed, whatever their color, that they might better themselves and better their families so that not only they but their posterity could enjoy more abundance in this country in every way, material and spiritual, as they pursue that dream.

It is about renewing and restoring the American Dream, Mr. Speaker, that I was proud today to author and to drop into the hopper the American Dream Tax Relief Act of 2003. I am proud that this bill, filed as it is on the very first legislative day of the 108th Congress, is not only my work but the work of some 33 original cosponsors, including many distinguished leaders of this institution and chairmen of major committees.

The American Dream Tax Relief Act, Mr. Speaker, is, quite simply put, an act that would dramatically reduce the taxes on capital gains in this country from their rate, which varies everywhere from 28 percent down to 8 percent, to a single flat capital gains tax rate of 10 percent. The enthusiasm with which this was greeted by my col-

leagues in just a few short hours of trafficking the idea here on Capitol Hill has greatly encouraged me that this is an idea whose time has come.

Mr. Speaker, I would offer to you that while the President of the United States, traveling as he did to the Economic Club of Chicago, did much this week to set the stage for recovery from recession, now is the time for us in this Congress to go beyond strategies for aiding those who are struggling with unemployment and layoffs, as we did earlier today, to go beyond even the President's thoughtful effort to bring the recession finally to a close. We need to begin to pursue, Mr. Speaker, economic policies that, in sum total, will explode the American Dream for an unprecedented generation of our citizens.

Only a significant reduction in taxes on capital will succeed in unleashing the entrepreneurial energy that is buried in the morass of high taxes and overregulation. Reduced taxes on capital will enable working families to save for the future or use invested funds for immediate financial obligations without fear of excessive tax penalties. American families, not the government, will have a greater power, Mr. Speaker, to decide what it is they do with their money. And for all of our great wisdom in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, it seems like every time we give the American people more power over their own money, the Nation and even the coffers of government benefit.

Now, some will argue as we proceed forward with this tax relief measure that we cannot afford this in these times of Federal red ink and deficits and a growing national debt. But the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that the last time the capital gains tax was cut, 1997, under the Clinton administration, prior to the cut, at 28 percent, the capital gains tax generated some \$62 billion per annum to the Federal Government. Within 2 years following the 8 percent cut in the capital gains tax, it became a program that generated \$109 billion to the Federal Government.

It is one of those ironies in a dynamic model of economics that when we lower the tax rate, we actually encourage entrepreneurship, encourage investment, and encourage people to move dollars out of passive assets into productive assets. And, in so doing, not only do the American people win, but the government wins with higher revenues.

This has been the unflagging experience of the capital gains tax when President Kennedy reduced it, when President Reagan reduced it, and even when President Clinton signed a reduction in the capital gains tax. As President John F. Kennedy said, not only is it a good thing for government, but in every real sense it is great for the American people.

Some will say it benefits the rich. And to that, I confess, it will. It will benefit the wealthy in this country. It will benefit the middle class in this